



AF/1745

9/BUE
p.3.01d

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Hiroyuki INOUE et al.

Serial No. 09/384,283

Filed August 27, 1999

Docket No.00290/6762FUSK

Group Art Unit 1745

Examiner J. Crepeau

BATTERY

OK to Enter

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

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TC 1700

Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C.

(H) 10-3-01
Sir:

In response to the Final Office action dated June 27, 2001 ("Office Action"), having a three (3) month shortened-statutory period for response set to expire September 27, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

16. (Amended) A battery comprising:

an electrode assembly;

an external case having a bottom, an inner surface and an outer surface, said external case surrounding said electrode assembly, said inner surface of said external case having an inwardly protruding projection having a first surface area, said outer surface of said external case having an inwardly protruding recess, said recess located so as to correspond with said projection; and

a lead plate having a welding surface area, said lead plate being connected to said electrode assembly, and a portion of said welding surface area being welded to said external case at said first surface area of said projection;

wherein said lead plate is welded to said external case by an energy beam externally applied to said external case; and

wherein said first surface area is smaller than said welding surface area.